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A NEW SPHENOMORPHID LIZARD (SCINCIDAE)  
FROM THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

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Eighteen species of Philippine lizards belonging to the genus *Lygosoma* Gray, subgenus *Sphenomorphus* Fitzinger, are described in the literature (Taylor 1922, 1923, and Brown and Alcala, 1961). In the present paper no attempt is made to determine the status of these previously described species. However, a single specimen, collected by the junior author in Surigao del Sur Province, eastern Mindanao Island, is sufficiently distinct from examples of any of these 18 species that it must be recognized as a new Philippine species.

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***Lygosoma* (*Sphenomorphus*) *diwata* new species**

*Holotype*: Stanford University Reptile Register no. 24178, a mature male, collected April-May, 1963, near Sibuhay, Diwata Mountains, Surigao del Sur Province, Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands.

*Diagnosis* (based on holotype): A moderate-sized *Sphenomorphus*; midbody scale rows 40; middorsal scale rows between parietals and tail base 93; lamellae beneath fourth toe 15; 5 supraoculars, plus a small, divided scale posteriorly, anterior 2 supraoculars in contact with frontal; an irregularly margined, blackish band from ear to basal part of tail.

*Description of holotype*: A moderate-sized *Sphenomorphus*, snout-vent length 54.0 mm; habitus slender; head not strongly depressed;

head and snout tapering; snout round, pointed, its length about  $\frac{1}{3}$  head length; rostral narrowly in contact with prefrontal; frontonasals narrowly in contact; frontal tapering to sharp point posteriorly; frontoparietals not fused; interparietal large but not completely separating parietals; anterior frenal reduced to small triangular shield widely separated from upper labials; fifth upper labial beneath center of orbit; 5 elongate supraoculars, followed by 6th, which is transversely divided; no nuchals (see Fig. 1); eye moderate, its diameter about 75 percent snout length and 37 percent head breadth; ear large, its diameter about 75 percent eye diameter; 40 scale rows around middle of body; 93 scale rows along middorsal line between parietals and tail base;

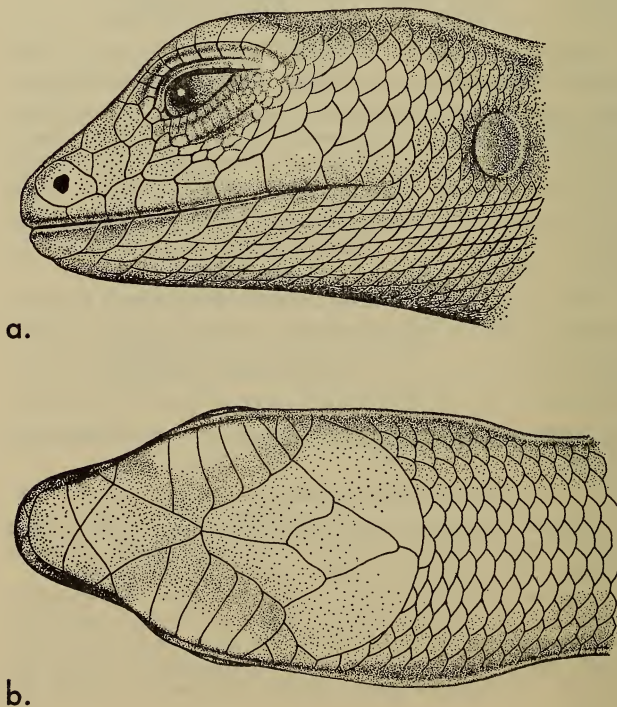


FIG. 1. *Lygosoma* (*Sphenomorphus*) *diwata* new species. (a) dorsal view of head; (b) lateral view of head.

15 lamellae beneath 4th toe on hind limb; limbs pentadactyl, well developed, length of hind limb about 37 percent snout-vent length and slightly greater than distance from fore limb to snout tip.

*Measurements of holotype* (in mm): Snout-vent length 54.0; distance from snout to fore limb 18.2; distance from axilla to groin 26.8; length of hind limb 21.0; head length 12.0; head breadth 7.7; eye diameter 2.9; tympanum diameter 2.2; snout length 3.9.

*Color (in preservative)*: Dorsum dark reddish brown blotched or suffused with blackish-brown, but lacking one or more rows of distinct blackish spots typical of *L. arborens* Taylor or *L. variegatum* Peters; dorsolateral region with an irregularly margined, broad, blackish band or series of blotches from region of ear to basal half of tail; lower lateral surfaces and under surface of head and throat marked by blackish, broken, longitudinal lines; rest of venter uniformly light; limbs heavily mottled with blackish brown.

*Range*: Known only from the type-locality.

*Comparisons*: The Philippine species of *Sphenomorphus* range in size from such small species as *L. (S.) steerei* Stejneger (mature specimens measure from about 26 to 35 mm in snout-vent length) to such large species as *L. (S.) jagori* Peters (mature specimens measure from 65 or 70 mm to 110 mm in snout-vent length). The new species is intermediate in size, belonging to the size group including *L. (S.) arborens* Taylor, *decipiens* Baulenger, *lednickyi* Taylor, *mindanensis* Taylor and *variegatum* Peters.

*L. (S.) diwata* differs from all previously known Philippine species in having a greater number of middorsal scale rows between the parietals and the base of the tail. Other species range from such low counts as 48-55 (some populations of *steerei*) to 65-75 (some populations of *jagori*). When compared to those Philippine species with an equally high midbody scale-count, 36-42, *diwata* also has a lower subdigital lamellar count than any other species. A combination of other characters such as the posterior loreal in contact with the nasal and the less blunt head and snout, further distinguishes this new species from other Philippine species of similar size.

When compared to species known from Borneo, Celebes and the Halmahera group, in terms of number of midbody scale rows and number of subdigital lamellae, it is most similar to *S. sabanus* Inger, *S. multisquamatus* and *L. kinabaluensis* Bartlett, all from Borneo. It is readily distinguished from *sabanus* in terms of the greater number of middorsal scale rows. From *kinabaluensis*, it differs in the greater number of midbody scale rows (40, in contrast to 34-38), and the lower number of supraoculars (5-6, in contrast to 7, and only 2 in contact with the frontal), the posterior loreal narrowly in contact with the nasal (not separated from it); from *multisquamatus* in the slightly greater number of middorsal scale rows (93, in contrast to 77-89), the lower number of subdigital lamellae beneath the fourth toe (15,

in contrast to 18-22), the posterior loreal narrowly in contact with (not separated from) the nasal, and the color pattern.

LITERATURE CITED

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